

Gerald J. (Mort) Ward was elected and installed as State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Ohio at the 91st State Convention, held in Independence, Ohio. Mort has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1968, life member since 1976 and gained his eligibility with honorable service in the U.S. Army at Camp Bearcat, Vietnam with the 5/42nd Artillery. He served as its Headquarters Battery Motor Sergeant, deploying with his unit from Ft Bragg, NC in 1968. His stateside duty included serving on the "Command Maintenance Readiness Inspection Team" as a repair parts supply (PLL) inspector. His service medals include: National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and Two Letters of Accommodation.

After his military service, Mort served as VFW District Two as its Commander in 1996-97 attaining 100% in membership and served as its Quartermaster from 1998-2003. VFW, Department of Ohio Offices and Chairmanships held include: State Youth Activities Chairman 1997-98, Americanism Chairman from 1998-2002 and State Inspector from 2003-2007. He is a member and Past President of VFW Ohio Past Commanders Association. Mort has served on numerous VFW National Committees and served on the VFW National By-Laws Study group for 10 years. He has been an integral part of the VFW of Ohio Charities since its inception in 2003 and served as Chairman of the Board for 9 years and 1 year as its President. Mort was very instrumental in adopting its By-Laws, Fundraising and Operations Policy.